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CD NO.

COUNTRY SUBJECT

Colombia

Importation of 1rms into Colombia

Possible Replacement of Minister of Government

13 Jan 1949 DATE DISTR.

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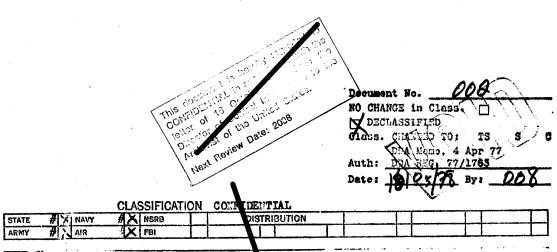
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Importation	n۴	Arms	into	Colombia

1. The Conservative Party of Colombia is alarmed over reports it has received indicating that the Liberal Party is engaged in a large-scale clandestine importation of arms. A member of the Conservative Party who works in the Barranguilla customs office informed the Party that arms are entering the country in case lots. Lecause of this alarming report, the Conservitive Party is making overtures to Spain and the Dominican Republic in an endeavor to purchase arms from them.

## Possible Replacement of Minister of Government

2. Guillermo Leon Valencia, President of the Conservative Party National Directorate, has stated that President Mariano Ospina Perez asked him to accept the position of Minister of Covernment in the event that Dario Echandia should leave the Covernment. Valencia added that both the President and the Party Directorate preferred to have Echancia remain in the Cabinet, but that he might insist upon leaving. Valencia is seriously considering the President's request because the post of Minister of Covernment will be an important one during the next elections, when the Kinistry will supervise the implementation of the new electoral law and the issuance of new cedulas.



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